

Appl. No. 10/675,315
Amdt. dated March 4, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 13, 2005

REMARKS

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 4, 5 and 7 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 4, 5 and 7 were previously rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner again rejected claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,551,082 (Douzono et al.). The Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection.

Based on the examiner's repeated reliance on Douzono et al., it was apparent that the examiner failed to appreciate that claim 1 recited both rotor housings within a single coolant housing. As such, applicants submitted a proposed claim listing to the examiner, the proposed claims corresponding to the claim listing in the current response. Upon receipt of the proposed claims, the examiner contacted the undersigned and suggested that claim 1 as proposed would not be allowable, not based on Douzono et al., but on a newly cited reference, U.S. Patent No. 4,452,575 (Schibbye et al.). It was the examiner's position that Schibbye et al. discloses both rotor housings within a coolant housing. After some discussion, the examiner agreed that any reliance on Schibbye et al. would require a non-final action since the original claims did recite both rotor housings within a cooling housing. Original claim 1 recited "the rotor housings being surrounded by a cooling housing . . . both rotor housings being enclosed at a distance by the coolant housing" emphasis added.

Applicants respectfully traverse that Schibbye et al. teaches or suggests the claimed invention. Independent claim 1 recites a two-stage screw compressor including two rotor housings and "a coolant housing enclosing both of the rotor housings and having a coolant inlet and a coolant outlet designed such that a coolant that flows from the inlet to the outlet passes around and cools both rotor housings."

The examiner indicated that Schibbye et al. shows in Fig. 1 a two-stage compressor, namely a first stage denoted by the number 10 and a second stage denoted by the number 11. While Schibbye et al. discloses a two-stage compressor, there is no teaching or suggestion to provide a coolant housing. The only cooling described in Schibbye et al. is an oil mist through nozzle 19 or 39 for "cooling the air flowing out from the first stage . . ." see Schibbye et al. at cols 2, lns. 12-15 and lns. 35-38. There is no coolant housing and no coolant that flows around the rotor housings to cool the rotor housings.

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It is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the event the examiner chooses to cite Schibbye et al. the examiner has agree that such reference would only be cited in a non-final action.

If the examiner believes an interview, either telephonic or in person, will advance the prosecution of this matter, it is respectfully requested that the examiner get in contact with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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